

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9941

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DEPT PASS TO USCG

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EWWT, PORG, IMCO
SUBJECT: REPORT OF 19TH SESSION OF THE IMCO SUBCOMMITTEE
ON RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS, SEPTEMBER 4-8, 1978

1. THE 19TH SESSION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
RADIO COMMUNICATIONS WAS HELD AT IMCO HEADQUARTERS IN
LONDON SEPTEMBER 4-8, 1978. CAPT. V.R.Y. WINKELMAN
(NETHERLANDS) AND MR. Y.S. ATSEROV (USSR) SERVED AS
CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN, RESPECTIVELY. DOCUMENTS
RECEIVED TOO LATE BY THE IMCO SECRETARIAT TO RECEIVE
DISTRIBUTION HAD, AS ANTICIPATED, NO FORMAL STANDING.
SEVERAL U.S. DOCUMENTS WERE IN THIS CATEGORY. ALTHOUGH
THESE DOCUMENTS COULD NOT BE REFERENCED IN WORKING
GROUP AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS, THE U.S. DELEGATION
EFFECTIVELY HAD THEM CONSIDERED IN BOTH PLENARY AND
WORKING GROUP SESSIONS.

2. THE DELEGATION FROM JAPAN STATED, DURING PLENARY
SESSION, THAT A RECENT MEETING HAD BEEN HELD BETWEEN
TECHNICAL EXPERTS OF JAPAN AND CHINA AND THAT THE
PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORLD-WIDE NAVIGATIONAL
WARNING SYSTEM WOULD SOON BE IMPLEMENTED IN NAVAREA XI
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WITH JAPAN AS AREA COORDINATOR. THE DELEGATION FROM
CHINA CONFIRMED THIS UNDERSTANDING.

3. FOUR WORKING GROUPS AND SEVERAL DRAFTING GROUPS
WERE FORMED DURING THE MEETING AND REPORTED THE RESULTS
OF THEIR EFFORTS TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE. WORKING GROUP
ON NAVIGATIONAL WARNINGS, CHAIRED BY CDR. R. NESBITT,

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO), NOTED WITH APPRECIATION THAT PERU WILL IMPLEMENT THE PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORLD-WIDE NAVIGATIONAL WARNING SYSTEM IN NAVAREA XVI ON OCTOBER 1, 1978. BASED ON THIS ASSURANCE, THE SUBCOMMITTEE PREPARED A BROADCAST SCHEDULE OF NAVAREA XVI WHICH WILL BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF ALL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ITU). THE SUBCOMMITTEE TOOK NOTE OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE U.S., AS COORDINATOR OF NAVAREA IV AND XII, CONCERNING U.S. PROMULGATION OF NAVWARNINGS. OTHER COORDINATORS WERE INVITED TO SUBMIT SIMILAR INFORMATION TO IHO ON THEIR SYSTEMS SO THAT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PLAN COULD BE CONSIDERED. THE USSR NOTED IN WORKING GROUP THAT NAV-WARNING ROUTING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN AREA COORDINATORS BY AIRMAIL WERE UNSATISFACTORY. BASED ON THIS INFORMATION, THE SUBCOMMITTEE EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT SUCH ROUTING ARRANGEMENTS ADVERSELY AFFECTED SAFETY. AS REQUESTED BY THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE (MSC), SUBCOMMITTEE PREPARED A DRAFT RECOMMENDATION ON A PROCEDURE FOR AMENDING THE PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORLD-WIDE NAVIGATIONAL WARNING SYSTEM FOR APPROVAL OF THE MSC AND ADOPTION BY THE ASSEMBLY. AS A RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS IN THE WORKING GROUP CONCERNING THE USE OF NARROW BAND DIRECT PRINTING TECHNIQUES TO BROADCAST NAVWARNINGS, THE SUBCOMMITTEE ENDORSED INTERNATIONAL RADIO CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCIR) UNCLASSIFIED

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RECOMMENDATION 450 AND RECOMMENDED THAT ALL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE NEED FOR A SPECIFIC FREQUENCY FOR THIS PURPOSE WHEN PREPARING PROPOSALS FOR THE WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO CONFERENCE (WARC) 1979.

4. WORKING GROUP IN SAFETY RADIO REQUIREMENTS FOR MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNITS (MODUS) WAS CHAIRED BY MR. J.T. CROOK (U.K.). BASED UPON REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP, THE SUBCOMMITTEE AGREED UPON THE FINAL TEXT OF A CHAPTER IX CONCERNING RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE DRAFT CODE OF SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR MODUS. THE TEXT WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SHIP DESIGN AND EQUIPMENT. THE NETHERLANDS, U.K., INDIA, FRG, AND ISRAEL RESERVED THEIR POSITIONS WITH REGARD TO THE REQUIREMENT FOR CARRIAGE OF AN EMERGENCY POSITION-INDICATING RADIO BEACON (EPIRB) ON MODUS. THE TEXT APPROVED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE WAS ESSENTIALLY THAT SUBMITTED BY THE U.S.

5. WORKING GROUP ON OPERATIONAL STANDARDS FOR SHIPBORNE RADIO EQUIPMENT WAS CHAIRED BY MR. P. ZWAGER (NETHERLANDS). BASED ON THE EFFORTS OF THE WORKING

GROUP, THE SUBCOMMITTEE PREPARED A DRAFT RECOMMENDATION
ON OPERATIONAL STANDARDS FOR RADIOTELEPHONE ALARM SIGNAL

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GENERATORS. THE STANDARDS WILL BE FINALIZED AT THE
SUBCOMMITTEE'S NEXT SESSION. THE SUBCOMMITTEE ALSO
PREPARED NEW DRAFT OPERATIONAL STANDARDS FOR VHF
MULTIPLE WATCH FACILITIES. MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WERE
URGENTLY REQUESTED TO SUBMIT THEIR COMMENTS AND
PROPOSALS ON THIS SUBJECT TO THE 20TH SESSION OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN MARCH 1979. IT WAS AGREED
THAT IT WAS UNNECESSARY TO PREPARE OPERATIONAL STANDARDS
FOR RADIOTELEGRAPHIC AUTO ALARMS.

6. WORKING GROUP ON THE REVISION OF RESOLUTION
A.283(VIII) WAS CHAIRED BY CAPT. G.F. HEMPTON (U.S.).
BASED ON THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP, THE
SUBCOMMITTEE AGREED UPON A FINAL TEXT OF A DRAFT
REVISED RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL BY THE MSC AND ADOPTION
BY THE ASSEMBLY. THE SUBCOMMITTEE HAD LENGTHY
DISCUSSIONS ON PHILOSOPHICAL ASPECTS AND THE BEST
APPROACH TO TAKE IN DEVELOPING A FUTURE MARITIME GLOBAL
DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE WILL BE TO PLAN A FUTURE GLOBAL MARITIME
DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM WHICH WILL SUPPORT THE
EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE SCHEDULED 1979 INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE. IN VIEW OF
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THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS MATTER, A DRAFT CONFERENCE RESOLUTION WAS PREPARED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE AND IS BEING SUBMITTED TO THE MSC WITH THE RECOMMENDATION THAT IT BE FORWARDED TO THE MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE FOR ITS CONSIDERATION. IT IS FORESEEN THAT THIS WILL BE AN IMPORTANT TOPIC AT FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE. THE SUBCOMMITTEE AGREED WITH A PROPOSAL BY AUSTRALIA, ARGENTINA AND CANADA THAT, WHEN FREQUENCIES HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE FORTHCOMING WARC 1979, IMCO SHOULD ESTABLISH A COORDINATED GLOBAL HF DISTRESS SUBSYSTEM WHICH ASSIGNS AREA RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISTRESS WATCHKEEPING TO SPECIFIC COAST STATIONS. RECALLING THE RECOMMENDATION ON MARITIME REQUIREMENTS FOR THE WARC 1979, THE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVED AN ADDITIONAL DRAFT RECOMMENDATION ON MARITIME FREQUENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR A DISTRESS AND SAFETY FREQUENCY IN THE 4, 8, 12, AND 16 MHZ MARITIME BANDS USING A3J (SINGLE-SIDE BAND EMISSION). THIS DRAFT RECOMMENDATION WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE MSC FOR APPROVAL WITH A REQUEST THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL BRING THE TEXT TO THE ATTENTION OF ALL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS INVITING THEM TO TAKE THE MATTER INTO ACCOUNT WHEN PREPARING THEIR NATIONAL PROPOSALS FOR THE WARC.

7. AS REQUESTED BY THE MSC, THE SUBCOMMITTEE CONSIDERED OPERATIONAL AND TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE FRENCH PROPOSAL SUBMITTED SUBSEQUENT TO THE AMOCO CADIZ DISASTER, TO MAKE IT MANDATORY FOR A SHIP TO REPORT ANY FAILURE OF STEERING, PROPULSION OR ELECTRICAL GENERATING SYSTEMS TO AUTHORITIES OF THE FLAG STATE, COASTAL STATES, AND THE CONCERNED CLASSIFICATION SOCIETY. THE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTED TO THE MSC THAT IN ITS VIEW REPORTS TO FLAG

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STATES AND CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO COAST RADIO STATIONS USING PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE CHANNELS. REPORTS TO COASTAL STATES SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO THE NEAREST COAST STATION. THE USSR PROPOSED THAT A COMMON CHANNEL WORLD-WIDE (CHANNEL 13) SHOULD BE ALLOCATED FOR NAVIGATIONAL COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION AMONG VESSELS. THE SUBCOMMITTEE FELT THIS PROPOSAL HAD MERIT AND SHOULD RECEIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT SESSION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE.

8. THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE IS SCHEDULED
FOR 26-30 MARCH 1979 IN LONDON.

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